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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 8th February 2026
No Mass on weekdays this week. Fr Thomas on Retreat for priests

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Isaiah 58: 6-10

1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

Gospel Matthew 5: 13-16

The readings this weekend indicates clearly how we should live. Faith must show in our actions. When we serve and help others, we reflect God's love and help others see the way to God. We must be people of light, called to live with kindness, courage, trust, be merciful and just. With God's grace, we can be true disciples of Jesus with our actions.

In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah calls the people to true worship through acts of justice and mercy. It challenges empty religious practices and points instead to creating a better world. The focus is not on rituals but on compassion in relationships, especially feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, clothing the naked, loosening the unjust bonds that tie up the poor, breaking yokes and freeing from slavery, stopping speaking badly of people, ending gossiping and slandering others, avoiding any kind of hateful speech and refraining from pointing fingers. It shows us a vision that involves practical kindness and care for others, contributing to the raising up of others' dignity so the increase of compassion is an example for others.

In the second reading, St Paul explains how he first approached the Corinthians in Greece, not with fancy words or wisdom, but with weakness and fear and a trust in God's guidance. This fits into the larger message which we have heard over the last two weekends, to address the divisions and pride in the Church at the time in Corinth. He reminds them that their faith is grounded not in human leadership, but in the Spirit and power of God. Paul's approach reflects his humility and dependence on Christ which he encourages the community to embrace. It is vital that we put our hope and dependence on God.

Matthew's Gospel is part of the Sermon on the Mount and calls us to make a difference in the world. Jesus asks his followers to be *salt of the earth*, a *light in the world* and to *shine like a city on a hill*. Salt preserves and enhances, light reveals and guides, and a city on the hill helps people find their way. In the same way our faith should not be just personal, but should influence and improve the world by putting our beliefs into action. History has shown the dangers of silence and inaction. When people fail to stand up against evil, terrible things happen. A quote from Thomas Jefferson: "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God". Martin Luther King: "We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends".

Mass times

Feast Days

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Thanksgiving Mass for Tessa James
Thanksgiving Mass for 46th Anniversary of Xavier & Debbie

Saturday 7th St Egidio Maria of St Joseph Born 1729 to a poor family in Italy. Father died when he was 18 and he became responsible to care of the family working as a rope maker. In 1747 aged 18 his lack of education meant he could not be a priest so was a professed religious in the Order of Friars Minor in Naples. He then made his solemn profession of vows at the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, at Galatone in the southern foot of Italy. He took the religious name *Egidio Maria of St Joseph*. At age 25 he joined the Franciscans at a hospice in Naples. For 53 years he served as a cook and porter. His main concern was for the care of the poor and vulnerable and he worked and cared for lepers. He also travelled outside the convent to beg alms for all his work. Gained a great reputation for his kindness and advice to people of all ages and status. Earned title "Consoler of Naples". He died 1812 in Naples.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 8th February

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

NO MASS

Monday 9th St Miguel Febres Cordero Born with crippled legs in Ecuador in 1854 and cured after a vision. Was educated by De La Salle Brothers of Christian Instruction. Very able academic. Joined Order as the first indigenous Ecuadorian despite opposition from his family. Distinguished writer of school textbooks. Skill in teaching religion with warmth and humour. Also head of novitiate for the training of Brothers. Had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart. Was sent to Belgium in 1907 and near Barcelona, Spain in 1908. General Strike in July 1909 against right wing policies in which the Church was involved and Catholic institutions were attacked. Brother Miguel took the Blessed Sacrament from the College Chapel and led the novices across the bay to safety in Barcelona. They returned about a week later to find a statue of the Virgin Mary, that Brother Miguel had placed in the window for protection, still there and nothing disturbed in the College. He died on 9th February 1910. Canonised by Pope John Paul II on World Mission Sunday 21st October 1984.

NO MASS

Tuesday 10th St Scholastica Born about 480 east of Rome, the twin of St Benedict of Nursia, daughter of a Roman noble. Dedicated to religious life. Started at home. Then moved to a monastery near Monte Cassino that Benedict founded, the first Benedictine Convent. Became Abbess. Followed Benedictine Rule. 8 hours sleep, 8 hours prayer, 8 hours manual work, works of charity or sacred reading. Annually met her twin St Benedict for religious discussion. Died 10th February 543 aged 63.

NO MASS

Wednesday 11th Our Lady of Lourdes Our Lady of Lourdes" was the name given to 18 apparitions in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous a 14 year old poor girl in Lourdes, France, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Bernadette, due to illness, was only 4 ft 7ins tall and, according to Bernadette, the apparition was no taller than her, despite all the depictions being a tall elegant older lady. Water from the spring that started in February 1858 at the shrine that sometimes has healing powers, is used today by pilgrims who honour Our Lady as the "Immaculate Conception".

Thursday 12th . St Benedict of Aniane Born about 748 to a noble family in Southern France. Educated in Frankish royal court. Army officer in the reigns of Pepin and Charlemagne. Then embraced the monastic life. Founded many monasteries under the Rule of St Benedict. Was a great reformer of monastic life in the Aquitaine Empire and demanded austere living. Considered the “new St Benedict of Nursia” by many. He suffered various illnesses in his final years but died peacefully in his monastery at Kornelimünster Abbey near the capital Aachen (now in Germany), on the 11th February 821 and buried there the next day 12th February, the feast day for St Benedict of Aniane.

NO MASS

Friday 13th St Modomnoc O’Neil of Ossory Born about 500 in the royal O’Neil family in Ireland. With no seminaries in Ireland at the time he travelled to Wales to be trained for the priesthood by St David. Beekeeper for monastery. He took great care of them and spoke to them daily. The bees swarmed around his head as though replying to him. When he returned to Ireland a swarm of bees followed him. Introduced a new fine strain of bees into Ireland. Parish priest who founded other churches. Appointed the Bishop of Ossory. Ended his days as a hermit.

NO MASS

Saturday 14th St Valentine Third century priest in Rome. Great preacher who converted many to Christianity. Roman Emperor Claudius II discovered that single men fought better than married men in his army. He then banned marriage for men in Rome so he could recruit them for his army with no ties. Valentine opposed him and secretly carried out weddings which were very popular. Arrested by a pagan judge who claimed his religion was more powerful than Christianity. However, Valentine cured his blind daughter. The judge, his family and 44 of his household converted to Christianity and released Valentine. Arrested again and found guilty by Emperor Claudius and sentenced to death. The daughter of his jailor had been converted by Valentine and secretly married to her husband. She took in food for him for his last days in prison. Valentine left a good-bye and note of thanks to her “from your Valentine” before he was martyred by being beheaded by the sword.

6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Irene Delves RIP
14th Anniversary

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 15th February **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Pat and John Moon RIP**

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Ann Drumgoole Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves Pat Sweeney

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK AS FR THOMAS IS ON A RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

Please keep in your prayers Pat Sweeney who had a stroke on Monday 26th January

Pat has been an important member of the parish for many years since it started especially in the Union of Catholic Mothers. At the moment she organises the SVP Social twice a month with Renee and helps in the collections at Sunday morning Mass. She was taken into the Southampton General Hospital and has undergone emergency surgery. Please remember her and her family in your prayers so she can recover as soon as possible.

Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion-

All Eucharistic Ministers are invited to a formation morning at St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May, starting with Mass at 9am. The morning includes input on the Eucharist in Scripture and Lectio Divina: “Living a Eucharistic life”. To attend, register at: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 18th February – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you.

Fraud warning of scams concerning changing bank details

It involves scammers impersonating a legitimate supplier such as the Diocese to divert payments into their own accounts. Fraudsters typically impersonate a supplier by sending forged emails or documents to the customer claiming that the supplier banking details have changed. When the customer updates their records, future payments are redirected to the fraudster’s account instead of the genuine supplier’s. Always confirm any changes to banking details directly with the supplier using a known phone number, not the one provided in an email

Fraud warning on scams concerning buying gift cards online

Be reassured that the parish or the Diocese will never ask for payment in this way: Gift card or voucher fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from clergy or diocesan officers, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond or act on any request. Please report any such scams to Fr Thomas.

Parish collection for last weekend 31st January to 1st February

Parish collection for last weekend 31 st January to 1 st February							Cathedral		
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£75	£18.75	£211.60	£242.54	£51.98	£599.87		68.50 (GA: £17)	£73.35	£758.72